



Reach Up – Reach First – Reach Ahead - PSE

February 2022

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Reach Up

Mission:

Reach Up joins families on their journey to overcome obstacles, explore opportunities, improve their finances and reach their goals.

Vision:

*Families will be empowered,
connected and thriving.*

Reach Up Programs

∞ Reach Up

Vermont's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program
Work Requirement

∞ Reach First

Short-term (less than 4 months)
Not likely to need Reach Up after 4 months – most go back to employment

∞ Reach Ahead

24 month limited Transitional Benefits for employed participants meeting the work requirement
Support services – childcare subsidy, help maintaining job, \$ for work supplies, car repairs, etc.

∞ Post-Secondary Education Program

Financial assistance
Participant pursues 2- or 4-year degree

∞ Child-Only Reach Up

Only the children receive assistance
No participation requirements for adults – adults are either non-parent caregivers or receiving SSI

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

- ⌘ What contributes to WPR percentage?
 - Participants engaged for certain number of hours per week in countable activities (reported by month)
 - Caseload reduction credit - a computation that includes caseload decrease since 2005 and Excess Maintenance of Effort funds expended

Work Participation Rates 2021

- ⌘ What rate are states required to meet to avoid sanction?
 - All Families – 50%
 - 2-Parent – 90%

- ⌘ What rate did Vermont meet in 2021?
 - All Families – 83.3%
 - 2-Parent – 138%

Percentage points per type of WPR credit

Program	All Families	2-Parent
Reach Ahead	34.3	79.5
Reach Up	1.1	0.5
Caseload reduction	47.9	58
TOTAL PERCENTAGE	83.3	138
REQUIRED PERCENTAGE	50	90

Federal Work Requirement

Countable Core Activities

- ∞ Unpaid Community Service Placement
- ∞ Unsubsidized employment (all Reach Ahead participants are meeting with this)
- ∞ Unpaid work experience
- ∞ Job search and readiness (countable for up to 4 weeks)
- ∞ On the Job Training
- ∞ Vocational Education (up to 12 months in a lifetime)
- ∞ In limited cases – young parents – high school education

Federal Work Requirement Required Hours

- ☞ Single parent (oldest child age 6+) – 30 hours/week
- ☞ Single parent (child under age 6) – 20 hours
- ☞ 2 parent household (both parents “able to work”) – 35 hours/week
- ☞ 2 parent household (one parent not able to work) – 30 hours/week

Deferments and Modifications

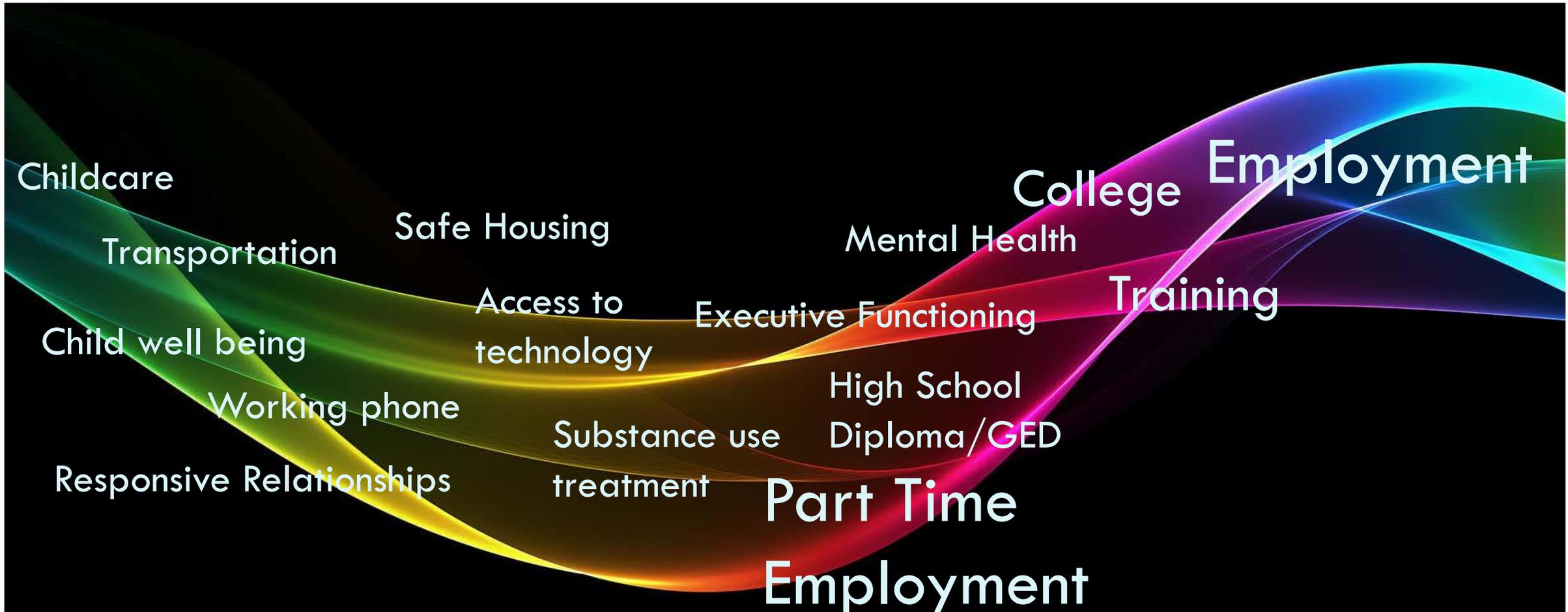
Code	Description
01	- Pending decision for deferment
02	- Work Ready
04	- Sanctioned
05	- Pre work ready
06	- Dependent child in school full time
08	- Age 60 or older
11	- Needed in the home to care for a family member
16	- Refugee Cash Assistance Case
30	- Primary caretaker of child < 6 months
31	- New baby <13 weeks (exhausted 24 mos.)
33	- Medically exempt for 1 to 3 months
34	- Medically deferred >3 months
35	- Medical deferment - applying for SSI/SSDI
36	- Child Care not available
37	- Transportation not available
38	- Accepted for VR Services
39	- No employment or work activity available
40	- Other support not available
42	- Participant 20+ & in Ed. 25+ hours/week
45	- Primary Caregiver for child >6 mos. but <12 mos.
46	- Primary Caregiver for child >12 mos. but <24 mos.
54	- Unable to work due to domestic violence
55	- Able to work part time (Medical)
56	- Able to work part time
57	- Able to work part time (Domestic Violence)
66	- Excluded member, or obviously ineligible person
77	- Removal of 2 mo. break in benefits
81	- 60 mo non-compliant, 2 mo. break in benefits
83	- 60 mo non-compliant, 2 mo. break & closure
99	- Follow-up receiving support services

Reach Up Partnerships

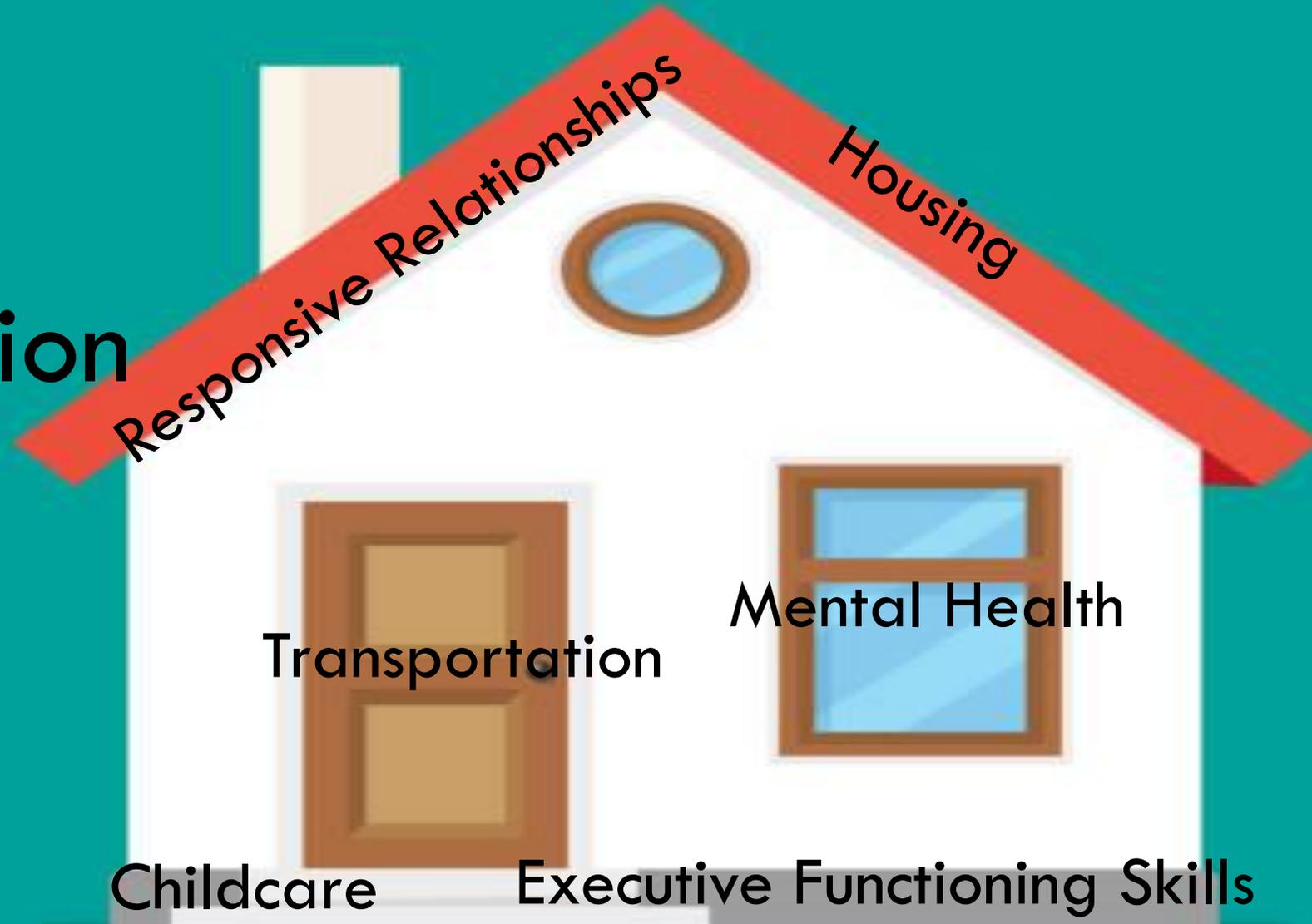
- ❑ Coaching (case management) – USCRI and AALV
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Employment, Training and Education Specialists
- ❑ Housing
- ❑ Post Secondary Education
- ❑ Early Childhood Education
- ❑ Financial Empowerment – Capstone and CVOEO
- ❑ Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment



Employment Spectrum



A Sturdy Foundation



Reach Up Frameworks

- Mission and Vision driven
- Trauma Responsive
- Goal-Oriented Coaching Approach
- Science-Informed



Key Hallmarks of Science-Informed Approaches

Create and Support Responsive Relationships

Strengthen Core Life Skills

Reduce Sources of Stress



A Structured Science-Informed Approach to Goal Achievement:

Goal, Plan, Do, Review and Revise

- Goal:** Set a goal – something you want to accomplish
- Plan:** Develop a plan for how to get from here to there
- Do:** Do the plan – put it into action
- Review:** Review and assess progress
- Revise:** Take the next action steps, make a new plan, or set a new goal



Goal-Oriented Approach

Research has found that people are more likely to stick with a task and make progress toward their long-term goals when they:

- Pursue what interests them
- Create routines that involve the deliberate practice of specific skills
- Find meaning and purpose in what they're doing
- Have hope that the activity will improve their circumstances

Source: Angela Duckworth, "Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance." New York, NY: Scribner, May 2016.

From "Goal Practice Activities™"

by Michelle Derr, Jonathan McCay, and Rebecca Dunn

Mathematica Policy Research November 2018

Support Services

Help families achieve their goals in working towards employment

Help families overcome barriers to employment

Cut costs for participating in program

Create slack by freeing up money to pay for other essential costs



INCENTIVES



Thank You!

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